

REMARKS

The examiner has maintained the rejection of the independent claims (1, 4) under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gregg (US 5948060).

It appears that the examiner is taking the view that "information . . . likely unique to the first frame" could be interpreted broadly enough to include the destination address of the first frame. Such an interpretation was not intended, and the claims have now been amended to make clear that the information must be "other than the destination address." The examiner is urged to reconsider and withdraw the rejection in light of the amendment. Gregg teaches merely the conventional technique of replying to receipt of a frame by sending an acknowledgement containing the destination address of the frame. No information likely unique to the received frame (other than the destination address) is transmitted in such an acknowledgment.

The ISO publication, the examiner's other reference, merely teaches that destination addresses are used in transmitting frames between stations.

Thus, the independent claims are patentable over the art of record.

The remaining claims are all properly dependent on one or more of the independent claims, and thus allowable therewith. Each of the dependent claims adds one or more further limitations that enhance patentability, but those limitations are not presently relied upon. For that reason, and not because applicants agree with the examiner, no rebuttal is offered to the examiner's reasons for rejecting the dependent claims.

Allowance of the application is requested.

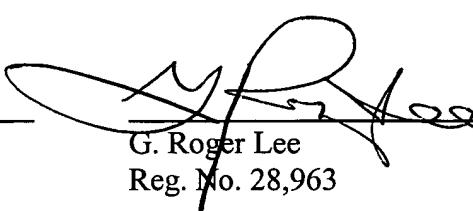
Applicant : Stanley J. Kostoff, II et al.
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Enclosed is a \$430.00 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 11/16/04


G. Roger Lee
Reg. No. 28,963

Fish & Richardson P.C.
225 Franklin Street
Boston, MA 02110-2804
Telephone: (617) 542-5070
Facsimile: (617) 542-8906